

CLAIMS

1. A method comprising:
receiving information from a producer to generate and/or update a publication profile;
5 selecting content objects received from one or more content providers based, at least in
part, on the publication profile; and
generating a publication utilizing at least a subset of the selected content objects.
2. A method according to claim 1, further comprising:
10 providing the generated publication to the producer to review and/or edit;
receiving zero or more edits from the producer; and
generating a finalized publication reflecting the producer's edits, if any.
3. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
15 distributing the finalized publication to one or more subscribing users.
4. A method according to claim 3, further comprising:
monitoring distribution of the finalized publication to the one or more subscribers; and
initiating a financial transaction with one or more content providers providing content
20 objects to the finalized publications.
5. A method according to claim 3, further comprising:
monitoring distribution of the finalized publication to the one or more subscribing
users; and
25 initiating delivery of a subsidy to subscribing users supported by one or more of the
content providers based, at least in part, on the monitored distribution of finalized publications.
6. A method according to claim 2, further comprising:
posting the finalized publication to a publication catalog for delivery to requesting users
30 accessing the publication catalog.
7. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:
monitoring distribution of the finalized publication to the one or more subscribers; and

initiating a financial transaction with one or more content providers providing content objects to the finalized publications.

8. A method according to claim 6, further comprising:

5 monitoring distribution of the finalized publication to the one or more subscribing users; and

initiating delivery of a subsidy to subscribing users supported by one or more of the content providers based, at least in part, on the monitored distribution of finalized publications.

10 9. A method according to claim 1, wherein the publication profile identifies one or more of genre information, preferred content providers, whether the producer wants to pre-approve publication, publication templates, and publication schedules.

15 10. A method according to claim 1, wherein selecting content objects is performed on a periodic basis in accordance with the publication profile.

11. A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions including a subset of which that, when executed, implement a method according to claim 1.

20 12. A document delivery system comprising:
a data store to maintain a plurality of content objects received from a plurality of content providers; and
a virtual editor, coupled to the data store, to dynamically select one or more content objects for use in a personalized publication based, at least in part, on a publication profile.

25 13. A document delivery system according to claim 12, wherein the virtual editor generates an initial publication using the dynamically selected content objects.

30 14. A document delivery system according to claim 13, wherein the initial publication is generated in accordance with a publication format denoted in the publication profile.

15. A document delivery system according to claim 12, wherein the virtual editor provides a communicatively coupled producer with the initial publication for editorial purposes.

5 16. A document delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the virtual editor provides the communicatively coupled producer with the initial publication via one or more of an email message, file transfer protocol download, web-page download, and the like.

10 17. A document delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the communicatively coupled producer is a software agent executing on a remote system.

15 18. A document delivery system according to claim 15, wherein the virtual editor receives editorial modifications to the initial publication from the communicatively coupled producer and generates a finalized publication.

19. A document delivery system according to claim 18, wherein the virtual editor distributes the finalized publication to one or more subscribing users.

20 20. A document delivery system according to claim 19, wherein the virtual editor monitors distribution of the finalized publication and initiates a financial transaction with one or more content providers based, at least in part, on the distribution of the finalized publication.

25 21. A document delivery system according to claim 19, wherein the virtual editor monitors distribution of the finalized publication and initiates delivery of a subsidy to users receiving the finalized publication.

22. A document delivery system according to claim 18, wherein the virtual editor promotes the finalized publication to a publication catalog for selection and distribution to requesting users.

30 23. A document delivery system according to claim 22, wherein the virtual editor monitors distribution of the finalized publication and initiates a financial transaction with one or more content providers based, at least in part, on the distribution of the finalized publication.

24. A document delivery system according to claim 22, wherein the virtual editor monitors distribution of the finalized publication and initiates delivery of a subsidy to users receiving the finalized publication.

5 25. A document delivery system according to claim 22, wherein the publication catalog includes a plurality of publications available to requesting users.

10 26. A document delivery system according to claim 12, wherein the virtual editor generates a finalized publication from the initial publication based, at least in part, on editorial modifications to the initial publication by a communicatively coupled producer.

15 27. A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions including at least a subset of which, when executed, implements an automated publication service including a registration function, to register a producer and generate and/or update a created publication profile, and a dynamic editor function to dynamically select content objects for generation of a personalized publication based, at least in part, on the publication profile.

20 28. A storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the editor function generates an initial publication based on dynamically selected content objects, and to provide the initial publication to a producer for editorial modification.

25 29. A storage medium according to claim 28, wherein the editor function generates a finalized publication from the initial publication reflecting received editorial modification(s), if any.

30 30. A storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the editor function distributes finalized publications to requesting users.

31. A storage medium according to claim 30, wherein the editor function monitors distribution of finalized publications to requesting users.

32. A storage medium according to claim 31, wherein the editor function initiates financial transactions with one or more content providers based, at least in part, on the monitored distribution of finalized publications.

33. A storage medium according to claim 31, wherein the editor function initiates delivery of a subsidy to users requesting publications based, at least in part, on the monitored distribution of finalized publications.

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34. A storage medium according to claim 27, wherein the publication profile includes one or more of a publication genre, a publication scope, selection of one or more content providers, and/or a publication schedule.

10 **35.** A storage medium comprising a plurality of executable instructions including at least a subset of which that, when executed, implement a user interface (UI) to solicit information to register a producer for automated publishing services, and to generate and/or update a publication profile from which the automated publishing services automatically generates a publication.

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